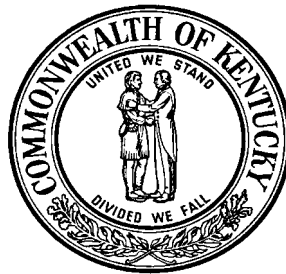


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
BRACKEN COUNTY
SHERIFF**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2002**



**CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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CRIT LUALLLEN
Auditor of Public Accounts

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
Robbie Rudolph, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Leslie Newman, Bracken County Judge/Executive
Honorable Mike Nelson, Bracken County Sheriff
Members of the Bracken County Fiscal Court

The enclosed report prepared by Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC, Certified Public Accountants, presents the statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Sheriff of Bracken County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2002.

We engaged Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC, to perform the financial audit of this statement. We worked closely with the firm during our report review process; Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC, evaluated the Bracken County Sheriff's internal controls and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Crit Luallen".

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE BRACKEN COUNTY SHERIFF

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2002**

Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC has completed the Bracken County Sheriff's audit for the year ended December 31, 2002. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees increased by \$4,492 from the prior calendar year, resulting in excess fees of \$4,648 as of December 31, 2002. Revenues increased by \$8,044 from the prior year and disbursements increased by \$4,548.

Report Comment:

- Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds. There was a written security agreement.

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Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler

Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor

Robbie Rudolph, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Honorable Leslie Newman, Bracken County Judge/Executive

Honorable Mike Nelson, Bracken County Sheriff

Members of the Bracken County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Sheriff of Bracken County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2002. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2002, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
Robbie Rudolph, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Leslie Newman, Bracken County Judge/Executive
Honorable Mike Nelson, Bracken County Sheriff
Members of the Bracken County Fiscal Court

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated November 8, 2003, on our consideration of the County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment.

- Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC".

Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC

Audit fieldwork completed -
November 8, 2003

BRACKEN COUNTY
MIKE NELSON, COUNTY SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES

For The Year Ended December 31, 2002

Receipts

Federal Grants		
DARE	\$ 54	
Vests	<u>776</u>	\$ 830
State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund		3,298
State Fees For Services:		
Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$ 3,029	
Transporting Prisoners	<u>356</u>	3,385
Circuit Court Clerk:		
Sheriff Security Service		5,427
Fiscal Court		9,802
County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		545
Commission On Taxes Collected		90,225
Other Fees on Tax Collection		
10% Sheriff's Penalty	\$ 12,627	
Sheriff's Advertising Fee	<u>325</u>	12,952
Fees Collected For Services:		
Auto Inspections	\$ 2,235	
Accident and Police Reports	279	
Serving Papers	9,595	
Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits	<u>1,815</u>	13,924
Other:		
Bank Shares	\$ 2,588	
Jury Expense	456	
Bond	255	
Incentive Pay	1,390	
Miscellaneous	<u>25</u>	4,714
Interest Earned		895
Borrowed Money:		
State Advancement	\$ 54,937	
Bank Note	<u>8,500</u>	<u>63,437</u>
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 209,434</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

BRACKEN COUNTY
 MIKE NELSON, COUNTY SHERIFF
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2002
 (Continued)

Disbursements

Operating Disbursements:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries	\$	29,274	
Other Salaries		23,172	
Part-time Wages		3,183	
KLEFPF		3,298	\$ 58,927

Employee Benefits-

Employer Paid Health Insurance			517
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Materials and Supplies-

Office Materials and Supplies	\$	1,571	
Uniforms		2,926	4,497

Auto Expense-

Maintenance and Repairs	\$	5,771	
Gasoline		4,231	10,002

Other Charges-

Telephone	\$	2,825	
Dues		50	
Postage		1,105	
Jury Expense		456	
Bond		777	
Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits		1,295	
County Collections		2,620	
Radar		30	
Miscellaneous		158	9,316

Debt Service:

State Advancement	\$	54,937	
Notes		8,520	
Interest		91	63,548

Total Disbursements

\$ 146,807

Net Receipts

\$ 62,627

Less: Statutory Maximum

\$ 57,812

Less: Training Incentive

167 57,979

Excess Fees Due County for 2002

\$ 4,648

Payments to County Treasurer - February 10, 2003

4,648

Balance Due at Completion of Audit

\$ 0

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

BRACKEN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2002

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this basis of accounting, certain receipts and certain expenditures are recognized as a result of accrual at December 31, 2002.

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a multiple-employer public retirement system that covers all eligible full-time employees. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 6.41 percent for the first six months of the year and 6.34 percent for the last six months of the year.

BRACKEN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2002
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System (Continued)

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record.

Note 3. Deposits

The Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of December 31, 2002, the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of either pledged securities held by the Sheriff's agent in the Sheriff's name, or provided surety bond which named the Sheriff as beneficiary/obligee on the bond.

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

BRACKEN COUNTY
MIKE NELSON, COUNTY SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Year Ended December 31, 2002

INTERNAL CONTROL - REPORTABLE CONDITION:

Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

We recognize the extent of segregation of duties is a judgment established by management. We also recognize this judgment is affected by certain circumstances beyond the elected official's control such as functions prescribed by status and regulations, and by budgetary constraints. Due to limited staff, a proper segregation of duties may be impossible. However, the lack of adequate segregation of duties is hereby noted as a reportable condition pursuant to professional auditing standards. We believe this reportable condition as described above is a material weakness.

County Sheriff's Response:

None.

PRIOR YEAR COMMENTS:

Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This comment has not been corrected and is repeated in the current audit.

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor

Robbie Rudolph, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

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Honorable Mike Nelson, Bracken County Sheriff

Members of the Bracken County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Bracken County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated November 8, 2003. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Bracken County Sheriff's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2002, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Bracken County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition.

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

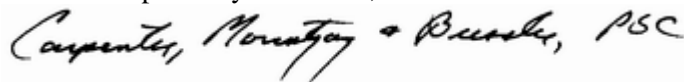
Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying comment and recommendation.

- Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the reportable condition described above to be a material weakness.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC".

Carpenter, Mountjoy & Bressler, PSC

Audit fieldwork completed -
November 8, 2003

